

From: Berve, Thomas
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: settlement

As a computer coordinator for a large school district I can't understand this decision. It will help Microsoft reach into schools and further allow them to control our software and hardware choices. Microsoft has no real interest in education except has a market for their goods. We are a cross-platform district and we receive zero help from Microsoft except in the area of sales. Currently they are doing everything they can to force us to upgrade to Windows XP at a cost we can not afford. Upgrade costs for XP have almost doubled from Windows NT.

This settlement would do nothing to hurt or punish Microsoft except cost them a few dollars. If a teacher catches a student cheating on a test, they don't get to retake the test after cleaning the room with no effect on their grade. This decision would hurt the only company that truly has an educational interest in schools, Apple Computer. Apple, while not perfect, still believes in helping teachers teach, not selling equipment. They have a legion of employees that do nothing but provide expertise in technology based instruction. No other computer vendor is as committed to education.

I am not an enemy of Microsoft, I use their software daily. I'm writing this message in Outlook. However, just because they have tremendous economic strength doesn't excuse their actions. I love my students, but when they do something wrong, I hold them accountable. This decision does nothing to hold Microsoft accountable.

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